

Leigh Town Board

10.15 am, 21 June 2024

Present at the meeting

Karen Cox (Chair), Spinning Gate Shopping Centre Manager
Adele Adjetey, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer
Councillor Dane Anderton, Portfolio Holder for Police, Crime and Civil Contingencies
Derek Beaumont, Owner – Leigh Leopards
Dorothy Bowker, Founder and Trustee – The Bridge
James Grundy
Lloyd Jolley, Director – WJ Structures Ltd
Councillor Yvonne Klieve, Lead Member for District Centres & Night Time Economy
Danny O’Neil, Greater Manchester Police
David Proctor, Assistant Director – Planning and Regeneration
Alison Rushton, Vice Principal – Wigan and Leigh College
Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business

In Attendance:

John Birkett, Managing Partner - Genecon
Graeme Collinge, Managing Partner - Genecon
Adam Pearson, PS Research
Eddie Pugh, Layer Studio

Observers:

Joanne Berry, Town Centre Manager
Melanie Lamb, Service Manager – Regeneration
Martin Ledson, Team Leader - Regeneration
Jane Green, Strategic Finance Officer

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invite Board members and observers to introduce themselves.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Alex Grundy.

2 Minutes and actions from last meeting

The Board considered a verbal update from the Chair, which informed Board Members that since the last meeting, all photographs and biographies had been received and will be uploaded to the website.

3 Update on Engagement

The Board considered a verbal update and presentation, provided by the Managing Partner – Genecon, Graeme Collinge, which advised the Board of new guidance that had been issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. This provides further detail on the content, submission and approval process for the Long Term Plan.

The Managing Partner – Genecon, informed the Board that five engagement sessions had taken place so far, alongside the online survey.

During its discussions, Board Members raised the following salient points:

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- identification of priorities;
- advertisement of the engagement sessions and online survey - one board member raised a concern that they had not seen media coverage promoting the sessions
- links to social media

The Managing Partner – Genecon, advised that the purpose of the survey and engagement sessions was to find out what improvements people would like to see in Leigh in ten years' time. It was acknowledged that safety and security was a main priority along with high street regeneration. Transport was a lesser priority.

The Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business, Steven Tomlinson, advised Board Members that not all members of the public were on social media and that demographics of different social media sites varied. It was identified that whilst Facebook and X (Twitter) would hit the 35+ years olds, TikTok would target younger people.

The Manager – PS Research, Adam Pearson, advised that 1140 people had responded to the online survey and results were similar to that of the engagement sessions with priorities being safety and the types of shops available.

There was a request from Derek Beaumont to consider whether a pop up session could be held at LSV for the next home game. The Council officers in attendance agreed to explore whether this could be facilitated.

4 Workshop session 1: Defining success

The Board considered a verbal update of the Consultant – Genecon and were requested to consider what success looked like for Leigh, building on the initial activities.

A digital survey was conducted and Board members were invited to submit their responses. These suggestions were then collated and fed back to the Board by the Consultant.

5 Workshop session 2: Measuring success

The Board considered a verbal update of the Consultant – Genecon and were requested to analyse the success level in the short, medium and long term.

A digital survey was conducted and Board members were invited to submit their responses. These suggestions were then collated and fed back to the Board by the Consultant.

6 Workshop session 3: Challenges and opportunities

The Board considered a verbal update of the Consultant – Genecon and were requested to consider what they would consider challenges that Leigh faces, focusing on specific locations and social contexts.

A digital survey was conducted and Board members were invited to submit their responses. These suggestions were then collated and fed back to the Board by the Consultant.

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7 Workshop session 4: Actions and interventions

The Board considered a verbal update of the Consultant – Genecon and were requested to identify the investment themes and specific interventions within those themes.

A digital survey was conducted and Board members were invited to submit their responses. These suggestions were then collated and fed back to the Board by the Consultant.

8 Finance Update

The Service Manager – Regeneration advised Board Members that £250K of revenue funding had been received from the Government. The current overall spend was approximately £100K leaving around £150K to spend and if this isn't spent by August, it will be rolled over.

9 Next Steps

The Consultant – Genecon advised Board Members of the following next steps:-

- continuation of drop in sessions;
- production of draft vision for consultation (within next 10 days);
- production of the draft Case for Change;
- production of the draft 10-year vision document; and
- production of the draft 3-year investment plan.

A discussion took place about the potential for breakfast focus sessions to take place, if required, and these could be conducted online.

There was discussion on Safety and Security. The Chair requested for a separate meeting to be arranged to discuss this.

It was agreed that the length of next meeting will be extended to ensure that all agenda items and feedback from Board Members can be captured.

10 Reflections on the meeting

The Chair invited Board Members to feedback any reflections that that had on the meeting and any future meetings. The Board requested that an extra hour was added to meetings to allow for more in depth discussions.

11 Any other business

The Chair invited Board Members to share their email addresses and phone numbers with Genecon to allow for one-to-one discussions to take place.

The meeting concluded at 1:10 pm